

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 24, 2011

A meeting of the Convention Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Board of Commissioners was held on May 24, 2011, pursuant to notice at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Dale Venturini, Jason Fowler, Paul MacDonald, David Duffy, Bernie Buonanno, George Nee and Letitia Carter.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill and Betty Sullivan, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Arleen Oliva, Deb Tuton, Nancy Beauchamp, Amanda Marzullo and Melissa Mosunic, RICC; Cheryl Cohen, Larry Lepore and Jodi Duclos, DDC; Michael Nugent, House of Representatives; Bruce Leach, Legal Council and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Duffy called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

Mr. Duffy entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Buonanno and seconded by Mr. Fowler it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April meeting

Mr. Duffy recognized Mr. Muldoon and asked that he address the Committee. Mr. Muldoon reported that April was up to last year by \$85,609 due to the timing of events and new events such as a Brown University event and the UMASS Ball. Mr. Muldoon stated that the Turn it up Dance group was a success. Mr. Muldoon noted that parking continues to be lower than last year but some new revenue sources will improve conditions. Mr. Muldoon reported that concession revenue is doing better even though attendance is down. Mr. Muldoon stated that it looks like May will finish strong and that the Electronics show that National Grid assisted to bring in did well. Mr. Muldoon said that the Convention Center is close to reaching its goal.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the new electrical contract will result in \$105,000 savings for the Complex. Mr. Muldoon noted that the leaks in the Rotunda have been repaired and the remainder of the façade will be completed shortly.

Mr. Fowler asked if we advertise that we have rental space available for reunions, etc. Mr. Muldoon said that we do not advertise because we don't want to risk or turn away a large piece of business because we have committed a ballroom for a smaller event and don't have available space.

Mr. McCarvill distributed a matrix of the bid results for renovations at the VETS. Mr. McCarvill noted that the low bidder was Calson

Construction followed by Cardozi and then EW Burman. Mr. McCarvill said that it is clear that EW Burman overestimated the masonry portion of the project and Cardozi's estimate for fire protection is quite high. Mr. McCarvill explained that we are required to follow State Purchasing regulations because the project is over \$1 million. He said that normally for an Authority project we would interview the lowest three firms and reach an agreement that would be the best fit at the lowest price for the project. Mr. McCarvill said that because we do not own the VETS this is a State project that we have been given the responsibility of completing the contract must go the lowest responsible bidder which is Calson. Discussion ensued regarding the process of obtaining information regarding Calson's compliance with State Regulations. Mr. MacDonald was concerned about Calson Construction's compliance with the requirement that they participate in an approved apprentice program. He also voiced his concern that the subcontractors hired by Calson would be subject to the same regulations. Mr. Leach reported that he is attempting to verify Calson's participation in a program but has been unable to speak with anyone in charge at the Department of Labor & Training. Mr. Leach stated that by State Law the job must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. MacDonald said that Burman's masonry line item was obviously an error. Mr. McCarvill said that it was and that Mr. Burman had failed to read an addendum to the bid limiting the amount of masonry needed. Mr. MacDonald asked if they could adjust their bid. Mr. McCarvill stated that the Authority would negotiate with all qualified bidders to get the best

possible contract but the State does not allow for that provision. Mr. Leach said that if all bids were over the amount that was budgeted we could negotiate. Mr. Nee asked Mr. McCarvill to contact the State Apprenticeship Program and see if Calson Construction is registered with the Apprentice Council.

Mr. Duffy asked if there was any new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Nee it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:50 PM